

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application.

Claims 52-66 are pending and have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Applicants reserve all rights with respect to the applicability of the Doctrine of Equivalents.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claim 52 due to a minor informality. Claim 52 has been corrected accordingly. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the objection has been overcome and respectfully requests the examiner to withdraw the objection.

Claim Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 62-66 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory matter. Without admitting to the propriety of this non-statutory matter rejection, Applicants have amended claims 62-66. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101 has been overcome.

The Examiner rejected claims 52, 56-57 and 61 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on U.S. Patent No. 6,359,548 of Cooper, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,365,602 of Levin. Without admitting to the propriety of this 103 rejection, Applicants have amended claims 52, 56-57 and 61 to include allowable subject matter as indicated by the Examiner

in the Office Action. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 has been overcome.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated that claims 53-55 and 58-56 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended claims 53-55 and 58-56 accordingly. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the objection has been overcome.

Applicants, therefore, respectfully submit that the applicable objections and rejections have been overcome, and the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overages to Deposit Account No. 02-2666. Any necessary extension of time for response not already requested is hereby requested. Please charge any corresponding fee to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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